



March 2007 Newsletter

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Process In 2006 Will Be On Display In 2007!

By Ron Sampson

It is tradition that the incoming president of the Ankeny Area Historical society write a short summation at the beginning of each year of the activities from the previous 52 weeks and goals for the next 52 weeks. Not one to defy such a fine plan, this article will also serve the purpose to explain my view as to why Ankeny's history is as important as its future.

2006 was a monumental year as the dream of a barn-style addition to our museum took shape, got built and was partially moved into by year's end. The majestic structure will better display—along with the 100-year old house—the many treasures that depict our past and how the founders and followers lived their lives in early Ankeny. It has made both of our museums more user-friendly and will greatly increase our abilities to educate and show-off our artifacts and treasures to young and old alike.

Our traditional fundraising efforts went-off without a hitch. Wonderful volunteers fed hundreds of hungry SummerFesters at the BBQ luncheon in July. In September the third annual ice cream social was another hit and the first-ever barn dance in October gave those attending a sneak-peak at the new barn. Santa's North Pole Village still supplies us an income thanks to our hard workers and the

annual membership drive gives us the inspiration and dollars to go on.

The huge task of retiring the mortgage from the new barn shows that we could have it paid for in the not-so-distant future with some luck and continued support from businesses, individuals and organizations.

We toured many folks through the museums during the year and hosted over 600 seventh graders during a week in May as they studied Ankeny's beginnings. Two of our faithful members that worked at the Ordnance Plant during the second world war were interviewed for an IPTV production and we hosted two guest speakers.

So, that was our year. . . pretty much the same as other years with a few new wrinkles . . . no pun intended. But, why do we do it? Why is it important that this city of some 36,000 have a grip on it's past?

Corny as it sounds, you do it for the kids. Parents, regardless of where you came from . . . this is your child's hometown. You might think that hometown is Mason City, Council Bluffs, Minneapolis or Roland . . . but this is your child's hometown. This is where they are growing up, going to school, worshipping and making lifelong friends. This is where their memories will come from when they recall ballgames, school plays, first dates and holidays.

. . .Continued on page 2

WOW! It Is The Only Thing To Say . . . Turn & Read . . .

Just as it is important for them to know what you did and thought as your grew up, it is also important for them to know what their hometown did as it grew up. That once upon a time right after the Civil War a man found out that a railroad was coming new here and he platted a town that was to be named after him. That it grew at first because of three coal mines that it kept supplied with food and services. That because of a madman or two in the 1940's Ankeny was the production center of enough ammunition to ship 36 train car loads per day and that after the war many people and a farm implement manufacturer thought enough of Ankeny to make it home! And a growth surge started that continues yet today!

The other thing that prompts me to reminisce about Ankeny's past is a gift left on my desk recently by friend and co-worker

Swede Lundstrom. He may not have seen it as a gift, but to me and the museum it is why we do this. It is an old, yellowed, wrinkled, taped-together issue of the Ankeny Times—a predecessor of the Press Citizen. It was the November 10 issue from 1960. The current news of the day reported that the Nixon-Lodge ticket had beaten the Kennedy-Johnson ticket in Ankeny 1298 to 925. The Kirkendall Library across from the Methodist church was nearly finished and Bill Riley was encouraging all talented youngsters to audition for his television show to later participate at the State Fair where total winnings in 1961 would be \$1,850 for the top nine finishers.

But more importantly was the information from the column entitled "From Our Files". In it was this dated from 1920:

**FROM OUR FILES
THE YEAR IS 1920**

If anyone should ask you about Ankeny, what would you say? Could you tell them anything off hand? No. Well just cut this out and paste it in your hat or pin it on the kitchen wall or better yet put it in your head and don't forget it.

Ankeny is one mile square. It has 172 houses, 174 families, 648 population, 22 farms, 25 head of horses, 10 cows, 13 hogs, 104 families own their own homes, 68 rent them. There are only five persons above 10 years of age who cannot read or write some language. There are two miles of electric light wire and poles and twenty-three street lamps supplied by same. There is one three-fourths miles of sewer. A good fire equipment consisting of one hose cart with 500 ft. of

hose and one chemical cart. A water system that can't be beat by any town three times as large consisting of one one-half miles of mains, a tower 130 ft. high supplied by an electric pump from a well 580 feet deep.

There are three churches, a consolidated school with over 300 pupils, two banks, six grocery stores, one hardware, one harness and one implement store, a good I.O.O.F. lodge and one of the best post offices, a good meat market, two garages, one blacksmith shop and one auto livery and sale barn, forty-one passenger trains, twelve freight trains every 24 hours, about four one-half miles cement sidewalk, and electric equipped grain elevator, one of the largest lumber yards in the state and last but not least we are on one of the proposed paved roads and have lots of room for more people. Come on boosters. Spread the news.

Calendars Still Available

Need a gift for the person who has everything or is difficult to buy for? Give them a 2007 Memories of Ankeny's Past Calendar. Each month is a different picture of Ankeny's past.

Thanks to Northwest Bank the Ankeny Area Historical Society is selling them for \$5.00 as a fundraiser.

Calendars can be picked up at the house (301 SW Third St.) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

What better way to share Ankeny's history with your family and friends.



WOW! Ankeny School Grant Promises Progress for Museum!

The following article is a reprint from the Ankeny Register.

Ankeny students merge technology, history

By Laura Pieper
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Technology and history will merge in a joint project for Ankeny High School and the Ankeny Area Historical Society.

High school students will use modern technology to help teach residents about Ankeny's history. At the same time, students will learn how American history and literature relate to Ankeny's past.

The project was made possible through a \$37,700 state technology grant. Students will help the historical society update its Web site, adding photo archives, interactive pages of museum displays, and audio and video interviews of Ankeny residents.

In addition, students will use iPods to create guided museum tours, develop interactive computer kiosks for the museum, and learn about and create museum displays.

Historical society president Ron Sampson said society members are thrilled at the opportunity.

"Some of the technology seems like it comes right out of a 'Jetsons' episode to many of us (society) members, but to the kids it's their language and their technology comfort zone," he said. "The entire museum is at their service."

The project was an idea of social studies teacher Dennis Adamson, who wanted to combine academic disciplines to get stu-

dents involved in the community.

"What I wanted to do was make a connection for this generation of students and show them how American literature and U.S. history has a link to the community they live in," he said.

Adamson and language arts teacher Katy Kauffman will teach the 11th-grade program, which begins next year. About 40 students are signed up so far. The course will meet for two hours each school day and combine history, language arts and public speaking with multimedia.

"I think this is something that students are really gravitating to, because they're not just doing English in English class. It's really across the board, which I think helps with retention skills," Kauffman said.

Adamson said the school is working with computer maker Apple to purchase a computer to for Web page design in the classroom, 20 -230 laptop computers for classroom or on-site use, and still and movie cameras, iPods and computer kiosks for the museum.

"We're already dreaming about what we want to do," Kauffman said.

She thinks the school might need to seek more grant money to accomplish all of the goals for the class.

"That's the fun part of education—the possibility," Kauffman said.

Reporter Laura Pieper can be reached at (515) 284-8503 or lpiper@dmreg.com

Is Our Zip Code 50021 or 50023?

Is the Ankeny Area Historical Society's zip code 50021 or 50023? Actually it is both. The Ankeny Area Historical Society's mailing address is P.O. Box 1111, Ankeny, IA 50021. Our physical address is 301 SW Third St., Ankeny, IA 50023.

We do **not** have our mail delivered to the house so if you are mailing anything to us, please use the following address: Ankeny Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 1111, Ankeny, IA 50021.

**Reprinted from: ANKENY REGISTER
February 6, 2007**

Here's your chance to rearrange history Help is needed to relocate Ankeny's artifacts

By LAURA PIEPER
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Grab your broom, dust cloth and toothbrush—the Ankeny Area Historical Society is looking for volunteers to help get the house museum and new barn into tip-top shape before they re-open this spring.

The society is in the process of moving displays from the house at 401 S.W. School St. into the barn next door. The society also is redesigning the house's layout to better reflect a 100-year-old Ankeny home.

So far, the country kitchen, school room, ordinance plant nurse station and other displays have been moved to the barn but are not in place for display. Volunteers are needed to keep things in order as items are moved and rearranged among the house, the barn and the old classroom behind the Neveln Community Resource Center.

“it could be anything from sweeping floors to cleaning artifacts,” said museum collection Chairwoman Marilyn Shay.

Right now, helpers are doing housework duties, but Shay said more sit-down work cleaning artifacts will begin soon.

Society President Ron Sampson said he hopes the new museum will open in May, “but it will be a work in progress for years.”

The society had the barn constructed to hold more artifacts, some of which have not been displayed for years, if ever. Sampson said that the barn gives the society more space for exhibits, more room for tour groups, more working space to clean and assemble exhibits, and that its elevator provides better access for the elderly and

handicapped. The barn is a state-of-the-art museum with temperature and humidity controls, sunlight protection and artificial light screening to protect artifacts.

Sampson said that the society has raised all but \$80,000 of its \$650,000 target cost to pay for the new building and that an aggressive fundraising campaign will continue.

In the meantime, residents are invited to help preserve Ankeny's history by lending a hand. Shay said the cleaning crew meets twice a week for about three to four hours, weather permitting. Volunteers, can show up for an hour, a day, or whatever time they have available.

“We're trying to do it month by month to see how much progress we make,” Shay said.

**Reporter Laura Pieper can be
reached at (515) 284-8503 or
lpieper@dmreg.com**

Over 580 Artifacts Processed in 2006

In 2006, over 580 artifacts were processed by the collection committee of the Ankeny Area Historical Society.

Processing means assigning an accession number and filling out an Object Worksheet for each item donated to the society.

The accession number is the number each artifact receives to identify it.

The object worksheet contains information about the artifact such as: type of artifact, who donated it, age, description of article, condition, any pertinent information relating to the article.



Early 1900's Organ
from Crocker Church



Quilt—"Stars over Ankeny"
By Marlene Daros

*Just A Few Of The Artifacts That Will Be
On Display In Our Museums In 2007*



Barb Nagle Agan's 1952 Christmas Gift
Toy Drum Set



Corn Knife found by Willard Nagle
in the jungles of Burma during WWII

ANKENY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
“NEW BARN” PROJECT MENU OF SUPPORT

LEGACY: \$250,000 - \$500,000

Dennis & Sue Albaugh & Family

DIAMOND: \$100,000--\$249,999

City of Ankeny

RUBY: \$50,000--\$99,000

Don & Charlene Lamberti & Family

SAPPHIRE: \$10,000--\$49,999

John Deere Des Moines Works

Des Moines Register & Ankeny Press Citizen

Ankeny Building Association

Rod & Dee Lein

Prairie Meadows Race Track & Casino

PEARL: \$5,000--\$9,999

VGI Design

Snyder & Associates, Inc.

Polk County

Community State Bank

First American Bank

Gateway Savings Bank

Richard Logli & Dena Randolph

In Memory of the P.A. Logli Family

Wells Fargo

Winnifred Spahr In Memory of Wayne R. Spahr

PLATINUM: \$1,000--\$4,999

Ankeny Hy-Vee

Norma Righi & Delores Manny

In Memory Frank & Mary Ghitalli, Paul & Isola

Fontana, Leno & Rose Carzoli

L & L Insulation & Supply Company (In-Kind)

Bell Brothers Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.

Family & Friends In Memory of Verna Howard

Family & Friends In Memory of Jack Dennler

John Deere Community Credit Union

Don & Barbara Penquite

Barbara White, Family & Friends

In Memory Dale A. White

Family and Friends In Memory of Larry Donaghy

Valley Bank

Family & Friends In Memory of Evelyn Dann

Zane Smith In Memory V.W. and Ann Smith

Rich and Patrick Taylor (In-Kind)

In Memory of Cor Hutton

Family & Friends In Memory of Jean Jones

Gene & Bev Samuelson

Family & Friends In Memory of Blasco Fontanini

Terry & JoAnn Adamson

Albaugh-McGovern Legion Post #42

Gerald & Marie Ballard

Orville & Bonnie Ballard

Casey's General Stores

Lynn & Nancy DeLapp In Memory Delma DeLapp

Larry & Dorothy Donaghy

Jeanne Ersland, Eleanor Tilton & Gale Gibson

In Memory of the Max & Ella Gibson

Handley, Block, Lamberti, Zinno & Gocke, P.C.

Huber Grading, Inc.

Harris & Deloris Manny

Ralph Mathis

Abel McCleary Family

MidAmerican Energy Foundation

Carl Moyer

Donald & Norma Righi

Everett Sather

Roger & Sandra Spahr

Evelyn Sexauer

Myrtle Sexauer

Ollie J. Weigel

Dorothy Wyant

Don & Carolyn Zuck

GOLD: \$500--\$999

Richard Logli In Memory of Ricco Logli

Bill & Barb Agan

Phillip M. Thompson (In-Kind)

Fred & Fran Smith

In Memory of Manilla Coppock

Ankeny High Class of 1956

Bob Brown Chevrolet, Inc.

W.H. & Marjorie Chase

Commercial Federal Bank

Craig R. Hawkins

In Memorial of Nina & Harold Weston

Joyce Lundstrom

Amanda Kuhns-American Bank of Iowa

Scholes Family

Eric Sheldahl

Struthers Bros. - Lee Lundstrom

Silver: \$100-499

Family & Friends In Memory of LeRoy Bachman

Vince Sanders

Alpha Rho of Beta Sigma Phi

Glen Cornwell Family In Memory Clifford Cornwell

Evelyn Dann In Memory Ralph C. Dann

Gerald & Marilyn Dennler

Evelyn Rigby

Cecil & Carole Ballard

Denman & Company LLP

In Memory of Larry Donaghy

Marilyn Shay In Memory Bill Shay

Herbert J. Brown In Memory Mary N. Brown

Beryl Coulson - Coulson Signs

Don & Carole Lea Kraber

Maurices Inc. - Match to Carol Lea Kraber

Loren Sampson Family

Doug & Ellen Smith

David & Anne Gardner In Memory of John Price, Edith

& Bee Morris, J. Arthur, Evelyn, Judy Ault, & Hazel Ault

Silver: \$100-499 (cont.)

The Mutcher Family

Ben & Jean Norman

Clarence & Betty Altenburger

Ethel Harmon, Jill, Robert, & Jan

In Memory of Mary Gilbrech French

Lee Ahlberg

James W. Anderlik

Duane Anderson

Ober & Iolene Anderson

Ankeny Genealogy Chapter

Ankeny Lions Club

Ankeny Visual Image Committee

LeRoy & Evelyn Bachman

Victoria Bachman

Gary & Toni Baugher

Geri Begg

In Memory of Wayne Begg

Joe, Charles, & Maribeth Begg

In Memory of Wayne Begg

James Blair

Ruth Bond

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Rob & Jennifer Davies

Gail Dippold

Robert & Nancy Frisk

Joshua J. Frisk

Justin R. Frisk & Family

Anna Hick

Evalynne Higgins

Harold & Charlene Hildreth

Raymond Hildreth

Jerry Homes, Inc.

Victor Johnson

Kimberly Development Corp.

Robert & Virginia Koch

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Jose & Shelley Laracuenta

Marlyn & Zelda Larson

In Memory of Angela Larson Pilkington

Betty Leonard

Earl & Janet Leonard

Grant & Sherri Lewis

Luke Brothers, Inc.

John E. Lundstrom

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Bill & Sarah Magnani

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Memory Lane Questers

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Janet & Marvin Nichols

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Timothy & Teresa Powers In Memory of Larry Donaghy

Tom & Joan Quinlin

P & R Inc. - Brandt & Janet Crocker

Dick & Suzan Rasmussen

Greg Rasmussen

Louise Vander Linden

Bill & Eva Wallace

Larry & Linda Wellendorf

Jack & Ruby Wheatly In Memory of Jean Jones

Louise Woods

BRONZE: \$50-\$99

MidAmerican Matching Jan & Merlin Christians

In Memory of Mary Gilbrech French

72 Degree Heating & Cooling, Inc.

Ankeny—Class of 1967 In Memory of Ed Medici

Bless This House, Inc.

Nancy Carr

Merlin & Jan Christians

LeNora Coe

Gilded Angel Photography

Dale & JoAnn Goins

Ethel Harmon

Craig Hawkins

Heartland floors

Laks Jagnandan D.D.S.

Franny & JoAn Johnson

Ken & Donna Kelling

Margaret McBride

Bill Michael Family

Lynn Pitts

Delores & Fred Reynolds

Dennis & Susan Roupe

Dennis Shaltanis

Roger & Fran Stefani

Greg Suddeth

Steve & Darlene VanOort

Mike & Rose White

Larry & Marcia Zach

FRIENDS: \$1-\$49

Friends Investing Together

Ethel Harmon In Memory of Mary Gilbrech French

Rich and Rosemary Taylor

In Memory of Betty Hutton

Arlene Bates In Honor of Sue Rasmussen

Tim Garner

Gene & Kathryn Hill

Ideal Rebekah Lodge

Bob & Jean Jones

Joe & Edie Morr

Clare Ann Stubbs

Virginia Wheeler

Margaret Grant

Terry McAnally

Marvin Rankin

Ms. Schima 3rd Grade -Terrace '04-'05

Raymond Thornton

Lois Hughes

Ward Mally

Hazel Moeckly

Kelly Morrow

Richard & Gina Sokol

Roy Stoll

Warren W. Thornton

DATES TO REMEMBER 2007

March 27—Monthly Meeting—7 p.m.

April 24—Board Meeting—5:30 a.m.

April 24—Monthly Meeting—7 p.m.

May 22—Monthly Meeting—7 p.m.

June 26—Monthly Meeting—7 p.m.

Watch the paper for the
Grand Opening of the Barn!

The Ankeny Area Historical Society is established to collect and secure artifacts and historical records representing Ankeny, Alleman, Bondurant, Carney, Elkhart, Enterprise, Polk City, and Sheldahl for the purpose of preserving American

2007 Officers

Ron Sampson - President
Rachel Jones - Vice President
Norma Righi - Secretary
Joyce Lundstrom - Treasurer

Board of Directors

Barbara Agan, Terry Adamson,
Ward Mally
Ober Anderson, Lynn Pitts
Dorothy Thornton
Don Penquite, Marilyn Shay,
Bryan Lundstrom

Ex-Officio

Joe Morr - Past President
JoAnn Adamson - Past President
Myrtle L. Sexauer - Past President
Bonnie S. Ballard - Past President
Barbara J. White - Past President

Past Presidents

*Wayne A. Begg
James W. Anderlik
*Richard D. Hermann
*Willard L. Nagle
*Deceased



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